to communicate with a number of outbound resources and a database server over an internal packet-switched data network. The database server contains account information on customers of the service. Request messages received from a customer over an external packet-switched data network are stored in a queue of a processing server. A router filter obtains a request message from the queue and validates a customer associated with the request message, after accessing the database server. A determination is made as to which of the multiple outbound resources to assign the request message. Each of these resources is capable of converting an input request message into a format capable of being received by a fax machine over a telephone network.--

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Summary of the invention with the following paragraph:

--A system for supporting a message delivery service is described that has a highly scalable architecture. Multiple processing servers are each coupled to communicate with multiple outbound resources and with a database server over an internal packet-switched data network. The database server contains account information on customers of the service. Request messages received from a customer over an external packet-switched data network (such as the Internet) are stored in a queue. The queue is polled for pending requests and a request message is obtained therefrom. A customer associated with this obtained request message is validated after accessing the account information in the database server. An

outbound resource is assigned to this request message, where each of these resources is capable of converting an input request message into a format capable of being received by a fax machine over a telephone network.--

Please replace paragraph [0004] as follows:

[0004] The communications server contains resources to receive and process incoming audio and facsimile calls from the circuit switched network into a format suitable for transmission over the packet switched network to the second user's address. In addition, a link is first determined between the second user's address on the circuit switched network and the second user's address on the packet switched network, and then an appropriate route to the second user's address on the packet network is determined. With the system being maintained in a distributed and redundant fashion, reliable receipt and transfer of all messages is ensured.

Please replace paragraph [0005] as follows:

[0005] However, the architecture utilized as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,208,638 is not easily scalable to handle increasingly higher levels of message traffic or to easily connect to networks in addition to the PSTN and the Internet. Figure 1 shows the essence of the architecture of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,638. An e-mail message is passed to an outbound resource 11 (communications server 550 in U.S. Patent No. 6,208,638) which converts the e-mail message to a fax format or to audio for transmission to a fax machine or telephone connected to the PSTN. A database 13 stores customer information necessary for processing of messages (an

unnumbered part of communications server 150 in U.S. Patent No. 6,208,638 which is also contained in database server 195 in U.S. Patent No. 6,208,638). After processing of an e-mail message by outbound resource 11, a fax or voice mail message is sent over the PSTN or more generally, a generalized switched telephone network (GSTN) which includes cellular telephone networks as well as the PSTN. Optionally, a pager message may also be sent informing a user of the fax which has been sent or availability of a voice mail message as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,073,165 entitled Processing and Forwarding Messages From a Computer Network to a Forwarding Service.

Please replace paragraph ***[0024]*** *as follows:*

[0024] As noted above outbound resource 31 is equivalent to communications server 150 as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,208,638. The modifications made to outbound resource to enable it to operate in a system having an architecture as described herein are as follows.